# A doleful Diſcourſe and ruthfull Reporte of the greate Spoyle and lamentable loſſe, by fire, in the Towne of Eaſt Dearham, in the Countie of NORFOLKE: Vpon Tueſday the.18.of Iulie, this preſent yere .1581.

HOSEA.5. Verſe.14.15.

¶I wil be vnto EPHRAYM as a LION, and as a Lyons whelp vnto the houſe of IVDA: I, euen I, wil ſpoile and go away, I wyl take away and none ſhal reſcue it: I will go and returne to my place til they acknowledge their fault and ſeeke mee.

2. CRO.36.Verſe. 16.

¶They mocked the Meſſengers of God, and diſpiſed his worde: and miſvſed his Prophets, vntyll the wrath of the Lord aroaſe againſt his people, and till there was no remedie.

AT LONDON.

Printed by Richard Bradocke, for Richarde Hollens: And are to be ſolde at his Shop oueragainſt the Signe of the Bell within Algate. 1581.

# ¶TO MY DEARE FRIENDE AND CHRI-stian Brother, Richard Atlee, Inhabitant of the desolate Towne of Eastdearham, and to his vertuous wife, Alice Atlee:

ARTHVR GVRNEY wisheth prosperitie, and all good thinges, in CHRIST IESV.

ABoute a fortnight since, it was my hap to vnderstande of a Ballet (as I take it) then newly come from the Presse, conteyning a brief and doleful Discourse of the late burning of East DERHAM. And (as for mine owne part) I both was and am a witnes of the wonderful euents therof: and therwithall (what for my continuall trauell of body and mind, the ruines of my friendes & allies and mine owne smal losses) a fellow feeler of the heauy burthen imposed vpon the townes estate: euen so, with so much the more good will I entertey ned the newes, expecting some better sequell, and rested not, til mine eyes were testimonies of the trueth. But when I perused the same, and approued the penning as sufficient in that or such like cases, I was (neuertheless) well aduised of sundrie vntruethes, whiche the Author (no doubt) not so much vppon pretenced deprauation, as for want of necessarie instruction had inserted. And allbeit, no important thing hath therin escaped, which (for mine owne part) I would not tollerate, of verie good wil in that respect: yet sithe her Maiestie, her honorable counsaile, many noble, worshipful, & common personages, bee otherwise infourmed of the matter: as also, the duetie of a christian, requiring by all meanes to intercept the course of an vntrueth: and last of all, in diuersities of wandring reportes to establish some certaintie, I haue vndertaken in the discourse of the matter, to set downe such an assurance of his particuler errours, and in stead therof, interposed such trueth, as the diligent obseruation of mine owne experience, and the triall of many sound iudgements can confirme and testifie.

¶One poinct (therfore) wherin he failed, is touching the nomber of Tenementes, Messuages, or mansion houses subuerted and spoyled.

The .2. cõcerning the dissolution of our houses necessarie for diuers domestical vses.

¶The .3. his insinuation of a totall losse and detriment susteined.

In these three (speciallie) hath he left the matter destitute of true report: for, as I haue expressed in the sequell of my treatise: the nomber of tenementes is. LII. whiche he calleth· LX. The houses of office, 350. or there aboutes: which hee reducethe into the nomber of .80. The value of all together .8000. li. or very litle lesse, which he reporteth to be .14000· The two first (without al controuersie) are mistaken, and publisshed falselie: But as for the last, I must confesse, that (at a blush) it seemeth to carrie great appearance of truth: and I my selfe was therin greatly ouerseene & deceiued, vntill with certaine other (of good experience) I had made an estimate of euerye particuler losse, and brought them to a generall and grosse summe.

Neuertheless, if we may recken the charge, which the towne (if euer she be repayred) wil exact, to make returne of her former estate, I meane in nomber and quantitie of houses, and (therwith) not pretermit her manifold losses, namely, of coyne, corne, implements of Housholdstuffe, victuales, wood, Timber, chattell, fruict, wels, pumps, hay, straw, time and trades, wherby euer since they haue declined and gone backward, which with the rest are and ought to be brought into the rekning: It is certaine true, that of, 14000. li. a small remnant wyll remaine, if any deale be left at all·

But this is an other case: for an accompt is rather to be raised accordinge to the rate of so much money as euery mans house and stuffe would yeald in sale, if now it weare in STATV QVO PRIVS. For albeit the buildinges were such as might haue serued many yeares and ages, if it had pleased the Lorde to permitte them to posteryties: yet of a newe house, in quantitie of proportionable resemblance with an old, and of an old, is not one and the selfe same reason: because by how mvch it excedeth in goodnes, by so much ought it to be preferred in price and estimation.

So then the whole losse which the towne hath susteyned is 8000. li. or there abouts, & the reedifiyng or restauratiō of the same in necessary maner with such other reconings adhearent as I haue allready cast ouer, will amount to litle lesse then 14000. and so it seemeth not vainely saide.

He that buyeth a house ready wrought,
Getteth many a nayle for nought.

Thus much Sir, touching the cause that moued me to intermedle & busie my selfe about the affayres of this processe.

Now whereas the Lord of his owne especiall grace from amongest the rest of that part of the towne destroyed, hath gleaned out your house, as one eare out of a shocke of corne, and preserued it alone amids the multitude of so monsterous flames, though I am in no case to exhort you whome I prefer before my selfe, or at the least do make no inferiour, eyther in the due acceptation of suche a benefit at his Highnes hande, or in recounting the causes why he hath ben more mercyfull to you then the rest of all that towne, and what purposes he seemeth to haue pointed and aymed at therein: yet sith I dayely heare men more reddye to attribute occasion vnto the meanes whiche the Lord vsed in that action of mercy, and to detract from him that honour and priuiledge that in all good thinges is due to him onely: then to waye and consyder what it is to neglect the meryte of his grace herein: I am to craue your pardon if this my Epistle shall seeme any thing tedious and not facioned with that DECORVM that best might become so short a discourse as is the treatis it selfe.

You knowe I am sure that albeit the case of the towne in that dismall daye wherein it was afflicted, was no lesse myraculous in the eyes of good men, then feareful to the lad whose tonges at the same instant could implore the ayde of God and attende vpon his ordinance, yet hath it pleased some since that time to make so diuers constructions thereof as dothe agree and ioyne with all vntrueth: and to take so slender tast of true knowledge as if their sences had eyther of late forsaken them, or as if they were newe drunke and lulled a sleepe in their obliuion, as in truthe they seeme in all goodnesse.

These be the mē that turn al things be they neuer so graue & waightie vnto wantonnes, that are alwaies musling with beasts in the myre of worldly matters, & neuer vouchsafe to lend so muche as half an eye to looke vpō the sunshine of Saluation, ne will be procured to put forth one poore finger to take acquaintance of the power and prouidence of God: but readily proffer their hand & the seruice of al the instrumēt al parts of their bodye to welcome & enterteine Māmon that monster their Maister.

But it is no matter, thei shew euē the same modestie towards God whē he sheweth himself vnto thē, that in the cōmō course of their life thei haue don towards those that are presēt with thē, namely the professers of the Gospel, & in the ende, shal find their fault I doubt not, & throughly vnderstād it either vnto perpetual pain, or repētance: In the meane seasō, sith in their darkenes we perceiue faire daylight & the glory of God in their

in their iuſt cõdẽnation, if that be the reward of their ingratitude let thẽ accumelate their ſinnes, ſeing they wil needes be filthy, till they haue aſcend, the throne of iadgement, and we ſhal ſee and they feele the greatnes of their owne greeuous fall.

Let vs I ſay, be ſure, that God reuealeth himſelf to no infidel, preordeined to perditiõ, & therefore cõfirme our ſelues ſo much the more in our hope, by how much the leſſe they make reconing of the trueth & their own headines & wretched cõditiõ. For in truth, nothing can cõmend the good eſtate of a Chriſtiã to his own ſoule & cõſcience with more vndoubted argumẽts, thẽ whẽ he ſeeth himſelf cõtinẽt in the wicked actions & demeanour of worldlings, & hath fayth in all the changes & chaũces of this vnconſtant lyfe to pul true obedience vppon him for his protectiõ: The reſt rowle euery waye & tumble vp & downe like reſtleſſe waues of water, allwayes relatinge the mercies and myracles of the Lord as accidents to prophane beginninges.

And as they are ſeldome poſſeſſed with the ſpirit of humilitie, euen ſo they toſſe and turmoyle them ſelues in affliction til they are windleſſe, and then breathe and to it againe, with infinit curſſinges and quarreles till tract of time hath worne awaye the ſorowe of their caſe, or made them feele the pricke that poſteth their danger, of ſickneſſe death, or deſperation.

Theſe poore ſoules neuer learned of Dauid, Iob and the reſt, howe to behaue themſelues vnder the Croſſe and hand of God, they accompt him a God no longer then he pynneth proſperitie vppon their ſleeues, or wayghteth vpon them with aboundance of wealth and pleaſures if they accompt him a God at all.

But if their eyes were not ſeeled that they might flye right vpp till they are wearie & then fal ſtraight downe & breake their neckes, they might gather a heape of myracles together paſſed in the ruines of this our towne, and by the ſame learne to knowe the prouidence of God.

As the wall couered with drye & parched ſtrawe, which although it be platted where the fire had free acceſſe and ſtood like a ſtake in the mideſt of ouerwhelming floudes, yet doth it ſtand whole and ſound, yea &, which is more, with one of the corner poſtes burnt a good depth iuſt in the midſt of the top, with ſtrawes ſtroughtinge ouer it vnperiſhed. What? hath fortune care of ſtrawes? or could theſe (little wretches) laye hold on her heary ſide, & a whole ſtreat of houſes ſo many furlongs long not miſſe the bald. Oh fine ſtrawes, if your dexteritie haue ſaued you, thanke your ſelues. If Fortune, ſie on her harlot, that would be ſo freendly vnto you, who neuer did her good, and ſo froward to the reſt, that neuer wiſht her harme.

Lykewiſe the winde which allwayes changed in defence of thoſe houſes that nowe ſtand, and then were in danger, may ſhew how farr thẽ Lord did purpoſe to reache his rod, It cannot be denied with anye colloure of trueth, that when the fire had gotten the market ſtead, the wind from the ſowthweſt chaunced full weſt, whereby that ſide was preſerued, and when it had gotte, by your houſe and beyond it, ſo that had the fire taken the next rowe, the remnant, except God being able to do what he wil, had ſhewed a wonderful myracle: muſt of neceſſitie haue gon with the fore end of the peece, then I ſay he brought the winde from the weſt to the northweſt, which kept off both the blaze & ſparcks & turned them almoſt backe again, or at the leaſt, that way wherin lay no dãger. If any deny this, not only my ſelf who duly obſerued theſe alterations as I labored, but other credible witneſſes alſo can teſtifie with me, & in the end when the fire was ſuppreſſed & beaten downe, then lo, it returned into the ſame ſtead wherein it ſtode at the firſt.

Moreouer, why cannot our fortune men gather nothing out of the preſeruation of your houſe, knowing that another was burnt to the earth whichin the on end, namli on the ſtreet ſyde was ioyned to it and came ſomwhat within it, and on the backe ſyde betwene the foūdations of the croſſe buildings was at the moſt but foure foot diſtance. ſo that by al likelihod of imagination the eues of ech other muſt concur within leſſe then thre quarters of a yard? if thei ſay your manſion hous (wherof the queſtion is) is a tiled houſe & that you had the aſſiſtance of the pit & great help of mans hand, I graunt. But I pray you who put that boldnes and courage in one only man, whom we neuer before knew deſperat in raſh attempts whē your hous was al redy fired, for want of ladders to break out betwen two ſpars, there to indure that great peril & danger that not only his parents & frends cried out on, but al the ſtanders by alſo for dread of his preſēt death? who I ſay in this notable diſtres made him the inſtrumēt of your good & an incorage mēt to the reſt? was it God or fortune? now, al this ſay our Epicures was fortune forſoth: it was but good & euil luck, it was but habardepas, it was but this or that, & which for a penny. Alas if I ſhould go about to perſuade thē that before the pit was made, or er the hous was raiſed, or er you were born, God held the purpoſe of your defence, I think thei would iudge me mad, and yet is it greater madnes by oddes to denye it.

Finallie in a world of ſuch witneſſes & argumēts of the prouidēce of god to make ſhort with thē & cōclude in a word: ſo ſone as the fire was ceaſed, who ſēt that notable ſhoure of rain? was it fortune to ſhow her ſelf in her pōtificalibus, or the lord to declare to vs & proue what he cold haue don in time for our ſafty, if it pleaſed him? they which aſcribe theſe things to fortune, let them ſet her on the top of the pinacle, reſt in her cōtemplation & ſeruice & ſeek non other gods, for ſhe is euen good ynough to ſhow them experience of eternall ſhame.

It repented godly Auguſtine that euer he diſhonored the name of God by talking of fortune with his tong, but theſe men are not afraid to rob God of his glory, & honour her with their harts. But if thei happen to be hunted (like hogs that are led by the eares) from this fortres of theirs, ſo as they muſt eyther confes God or els be pointed out for blaſpheming Atheyſts, then ſtraight way theie ſay that indeed he ſuffered it, but neither willed it, nor did it: wherin alſo thei ſhape them out a God according to their own ſhadow, who by this reſō muſt ſuffer that which he wold not or be a careleſſe & idle ouerſeer of worldlie maters. wel I leaue thē to their groſnes til the lord ſhal pleaſe to vouch ſafe their better knowledge or bring vpon them the iuſt effects of wilfull ignorance.

Now for aſmuch as amidds ſo great deſolatiō he hath left you this notable trial of his loue, & tumbled the reſt together before the owners faces as thogh he wold haue you to know & cōfeſſe, & the reſt to beare witnes of his fauour towards you: For the loue of god (for your parts) āſwere him again with your due obedience in that caling wherin he hath placed you, euen of a redy & willing mind to bring glory to his name, profit to his church & cōfort to your own conſciences. And as you haue hitherto ben counte-naūcers of the poore profeſſors of Ieſus chriſt in this your town, & louing frends to al other: ſo heraſter be not wāting (as I truſt you wil not) in reforming & bridling thoſe, whoſe religion & maners, you daily ſee too too far out of ſquare & order, haling the iugdemēts of god vpō them & others, who but for them wold be more teachable, & in ſhort ſpace better taught. And the Lord (who in althings can ſee the ſecrets of your intents) ſhal bleſſe your labours & reward you with the open liberalitie of his glorious kingdome: which I beſeeche him graunt vnto you both. Amen,

¶ Yours, in the Lord, AR. GVRNEY.

# ¶A LAMENTABLE DISCOVRSE of the Spoyle of East DEARHAM.

WHo markes the steps of this vnstayed state,
And sees the seas which sink vs in our sin,
And wiseli weies our wicked wādring gate,
And floudes of filth that we lye frozen in,
Maye mourne with me, our cases are akinne.
I tyed my trust to trifling trash and pelfe,
Ye by my harme maye seeke to saue himselfe.

Least they be reserued for as great or greater Iudgement.

¶ A Towne I was though blest, not braue, God wott,
Ne of renoune, my name was allwayes small,
My treasures thinne, yet trades which I had gott,
Did hould me high vppon an happy stall:
An ayde was I, but in no case a thrall
To neighbour Townes dispersed heare and there,
My state was sound and stode for stately chere.

A Towne of meane report

¶ My fields full faire, my pastures pight for good,
My waters cleare, my fruict sufficient:
My bounds both broade and well bestad with wood,
My Comons large and comly to content:
But oh, my sinne deserued to be shent,
And lowde did call the vengeance of my God,
Who heard at last, and lasht mee with his Rod.

Cōmodyties.

¶ For lo, where late I was a Towne at needes,
Where Iudgementes & where lawes were oft discust,
Am now become a Nettle bush of weedes,
Defaste with fire and halfe returnd to dust:
My name to ken, who so hath any lust,
Dearham I am, scituate nert the East,
In Norffolk soile, full well for man and beast.

East dearham.

¶ Come

Meaning all other townes and warnyng them.

¶Come forth, therfore, both friend and foe I meane,
I counſell all, and none would ouerpaſſe:
Come learne of mée, that whylome ſounde did dreame
Of happy ſtate, but ſaw not what it was,
A world of ſinnes hath cauſed my diſgrace:
Yea, comon faultes, and in no calme degrée,
Therfore, I ſay, now ſée your ſelues by mée.

¶When as I ſtode in peace and pleaſant reſt,
Guarded with theſe and pleaſures many moe:
My pleaſant pathes ſo promiſt mée the beſt,
That (voide of dread) I doubted no ſuche bloe:
For why? the tempeſt that hath wrought my woe,
Was out of ſight and couerd with a clowde,
Which cauſd mée pranck, oh wretch & patern prowde.

¶Why ſhould I count, the courſes of my cryme?
Syth true it is, I plunged was moſt déepe
In eche offence that doth reproch the tyme,
And in theſe daies ſo rocke the world aſléepe?
My ſinnes, my ſinnes, haue cauſed mée to wéepe,
Whome God hath made a Myrrour to them all,
That ſée my ſore, or euer ſerch it ſhall.

Drunckennes goeth not alone.

¶A Drunkard (friends) was I with déepe delight,
And pamperd vp my paunche with belly chéere:
I left not ſo, but ſtyll came on forthright,
To thouſandes moe, then I haue cited héere:
I cared not to cogge, to lye and ſweare,
To boaſt and brawle, I thought no ſimple ſport,
Ne yet the good, with ſpite to miſreport.

¶Thus, by degrées, I practiſed my parte,
For (whirlyng now) came Whordome on withall,
Selfe wyll, Hatred, and ſwellyng Pride of hart,
The lacke of Loue, did throughly make mée thrall:
I ſerud my ſelfe, and poaſted nert the wall
My neighbour, friend or foe, what ere he was,
As though I raued, to ride on Mydas Aſſe.

¶Attemptes

¶Loe friends you se the cause of all my wrecks, Cause.
Euen sinne it was that stroche this fearefull stroake,
Nowe shall you heare the sowne of such effects,
As do pursue them which the Lord prouoke, Effects.
Their glory fades and falles away like smoke,
Expert am I and witnesse in the case,
Whose fumeing faults haue thus belmeard my face.

¶Attend therefore the sequell of my tale,
And I shall showe the shape of my myshapp.
Beléeue me well I will not passe my pale,
But truely touch the trueth in euery gapp,
For why? to lull or luske in lyers lapp,
Ought duely of all men to be abhorde,
Nowe lyst I saye, and do the trueth recorde.

¶When Ioue my iudge the mighty Lord on highe,
Had loked long and could not see me come,
And when I card not for his call and crye, Without recouery.
He would be slide to stoupe vnto his downe,
And when I showde my selfe both deaf and dum,
Then vp he starts and straight had pight the plott
Which staind my state, and layd me to my lott.

¶For at the least, more then a monthe right out, Drought.
Before he blew the brand that burnt me thus,
He sent a season of sunneshyne and drowghte,
No day came downe to dewe my vtter crust,
But parcht me like the perfect tunder dust,
So that the steele no sooner gaue the stroake,
But flames flew out and I began to smoake.

¶The time of yeare, was trustie to the touche, This spoken.
For Iulie did her drie daies beginne: tantum secundum quid.
Who to the Matche, the Candle well could couche,
And light the mist of my misfortune in:
Now woes gan weaue the web which I did spinne,
And sith the Lorde hath iust set downe my time, Mans helpe vaine.
I iumpt in vaine to saue mée by a shrine.

 ¶The

VLY.

¶The eighteenth day of that ſame mournfull mone,
Within the yeare of thincarnation
Of Chriſt our Lord Gods welbeloued ſonne,
One thouſand fiue hundreth eightie and one.
Before eleuen a clocke in the forenone,
I toke my courſe into Ecliptica,
And leaft my lampe in lewde Saturnica.

A compariſō borrowed of the Moone entring into the line of ecl[illegible]

¶For why, the Lord did hide him nowe behinde,
The Center of his whole conſuming yre,
And nowe my ſinne the torture ſo vnkinde,
Oppoſde me iuſt wherof aroſe the fire,
For loke howe much my flames encreaſed hier,
So much they dimd and daunted my eſtate,
And cauſd me crouch vnto a crabbed fate.

He alludeth ſtil vnto an eclipps.

¶My ſtreets were longeſt twixt the South and North,
And therin peard ſuch beauty as I bare,
My breadth from Eaſt to Weſt did paſſe right forth,
And as in townes croſſe ſtreets full comon are,
Right ſo in me they went and planted were.
Whereby fower wayes the fier ſone was ſpred,
All which at one muſt nedes annoye my head.

The ſituation of the towne.

¶The winde (God wot) did waite at the ſouthweſt,
To blowe the blaze into the market plot,
All thinges were armde and redy to arreſt,
My careleſſe corps, that all miſhaps forgot,
Wherefore I ſerued am, full lyke a ſot,
For lo, euen in the midſt of the high ſtreate,
The cuilles were met which did me thus intreate.

The wynde.

¶As for the man with whome it did begyn,
The heauens behold I would not hyde his cryme,
Yet I ſuppoſe he hath committed ſinne
Which lately gald him in a retcheleſſe rime,
For if I weare, his faultes for to define,
I could not charge him with infamous actes,
Ne treade the trace of his ſo filthy factes.

Where the fire beganne.

¶He is

¶He is (no doubt) a sinner with the rest,
And beares the Badge of Adames beastly parte,
And brewes the bale, that breedes within his brest,
And hordes the harmes that hanges on eche mans hart,
I know what I could say of his desart:
But let that passe, I am not here to tell
Of praise, but how with mée it late befell.

¶Betwirt the wife and maide of that same man,
Right true it is, my bane at first brake out,
To whome (lykewise) no harme adiudge I can,
In this their fact, for why? what man can doubt,
But that they rued the ruine of this route?
Besides (my frendes) in all these flames and smoake
We may be sure, the Lorde did strike his stroake.

¶This being thus, why should I chalke his chaunce?
With markes of mallice and of fowle despight,
Full well I sée, he did but leade the Daunce:
For many moe were pesterd in that plight,
Yet all (I deeme, with verie dull delight:
And sith I knowe, God eft with his beginnes,
Why do I point at this man and his sinnes?

1. Pet. 4. 17.

¶Admit the Lorde would wrest from him my woe,
And first of all, put him in for his parte,
Shall I anone, my wayes and wantes let goe,
As though my selfe had neare deseru'd to smarte,
None can so compt, but being fond in hart,
Let me (therfore) still as I ought beléeue,
That he hath tane, which first to me did géeue.

¶But nowe againe, I turne me to my tale,
My Belles were ronge, and I straight waies arose,
My neighbours heard them both from Hill and dale,
Which way so ere the rumour spreads and goes,
But all was one, were they my frendes or foes,
They could not stint ne stay the strong decrée,
Which God had pitcht and plotted out for mée.

No helpe can intercept the work of God.

¶Yet ſith I ſay, I could not vnderſtand,
Ne ſearch the ſecretes of his holy head
Meanes vſed. Nor ſée how farre he would ſtretch forth his hand,
Nor what for mée he had afore decréed:
I left no let that might mée ſtand in ſtead,
But vſed thoſe my Paſteries in chiefe,
That promiſt moſt, yet leaſt did eaſe my griefe.

¶Some water drewe, ſome did the ſame tranſporte,
Some Ladders reard and ran to houſes toppes,
Some ſpread wet cloathes, and ſome in wofull ſorte,
Came headlongs downe from Eues where water dropps
Some counſaile gaue, and called other fops,
Some cride allowde, do reare before the fire,
And ſome bad rend, but where I would repaier.

¶Some ſought to ſaue ſome lynnen cloth and ware,
And ſome againe my coyne gan faſt conuay,
Some came with Carts, and with whole loades of care
Some Gwddes did leade into the fields and way,
Some for their déedes and Euidences pray,
Some that were ſtoarde of vittailes and of graine,
Did ſée it burne vnto their loſſe and paine.

¶Some from the field returned ſone and faſt,
But were ſhut out, and could no where get in.
Some to ſcape out, with baggage ran in haſte,
And could perceiue no ſawte where to begin,
Thus ſome and ſome great weerineſſe did winne,
Untyll the ſome was verie ſcant and ſmall,
That idle ſtowde, and in no ſtead at all.

¶And what for this? where is the gaine I got?
My meanes did fade, and fall flat to the grounde,
And all my helpes and handes were ſtaid (God wot)
Which ſought to ſaue me in that ſtate and ſtownde:
Becauſe the Lorde would néedes me now confownde,
And make mée taſt ſome triall of miſhap,
Thus was I caught in trifling with the trap.

¶For

¶ For loe, the Ladders that were lone set vp,
The fier did force to fall right downe as fast:
My strength was staid, that I mought sup the Cup,
And ken my selfe a captiue at the last,
The winde did ware, as though it made great haste,
To fling the flames of fowle fate aboute,
And could reioyce my weale to scorne and flow t

Ladders burnt

¶ And where my aide in water chiefly lay,
As in a meane for suche distresse preparde,
And where I made my most recourse that way,
My foting fayld till all my Mart was mard,
Full sodenly therof was I debard:
For why? the brandes, they whirld so fast aboute.
They burnt my Pumps, & won my welles right out

The [illegible] nifite of w [illegible] r lost.

¶ And where my wares was poasted to and fro,
And leaft at large, for euery man to see,
Fewe bought (God knowes (but many borowed so,
That I haue cause to curse their knauerie:
And shall no lesse (I doubt mee) while I die:
For though euyll windes do blowe some men to good
Yet are they lewde, that liues by others foode.

pylf [illegible] s.

¶ Nay, lowdly lewde, and most accursed wighres,
Be they: who see the Thunderboultes of God,
Aboute their cares, and still dare vse the sleightes,
And in their theft and villanie thus plod,
Where shall they haue their lasting place and boade,
In heauen: no, here I pawne and pledge my soule,
Except they turne, and tame suche fancies fowle.

Th [illegible] icke l- nes [illegible] nan.

¶ Can any beast that fedes on carren vile?
Or can the Dogge spew out suche filth as this?
Or can the Deuyll more dammably beguile?
Those whom he traines to turne from lasting blisse,
If all the Furies were agreed [illegible]
They could scarse coyne:
Then these haue found, by

¶ If Pallas had ſet ouer all her ſkill,
Or were my tongues more then were Argus eyes,
Or had I got the trade of Tullies Quill:
Theſe often tould, could me not halfe ſuffice,
To paint and portray out in worthy wiſe,
The ſore, the ſinne, the ſhamefull partes of man:
Whoſe mind and mode no meane but madnes can

¶ For though the Lorde imprints in clowde and ſkie,
Right ſtrange Edictes, to call vs home from ſinne,
Natu uſes And ſo by ſignes of Iudgementes dayly trie,
The canckred caſe that we lie tumbling in,
Yet nothing wyll our wandring ſences winne,
We ſtraight, in nature, can diſcerne the cauſe,
And ſo aſcribe eche thing vnto her lawes.

¶ We diuerſlie can deſcant of the Earth,
And dull vs in ou dœpe deuices ſo,
And ſhowe the cauſe of plentie and of dearth,
And what doth ſhake the grounde, and manie moe,
We are ſo farre betwitcht and gone in woe,
That whē the Lord doth plead our plagues by word
We ſhift it off, as though he did but bourd.

¶ Doubtleſſe I dœme, or (rather ſœ right well,
That if from Heauen, we heard his voice and crie:
Or if he ſent the ſœlie ſoules from Hell:
Liue La- To warne vs by t eir wofull miſerie,
zaru We would accompt all this but fablerie,
So that (alas) I can not iudge ne thinke,
What may vs ſaue, that haue ſuch mindes to ſincke

¶ If feareful Comete glide ouer our head,
Or blaſing Starres ſhine in our ſhameles eyes,
If Sickenesſe haue our ſore both brought and bred,
Or els the loſſe of landes cauſed our cries,
Of theſe (I ſay) we daſell and deuiſe,
Nature, as our God,
me and dayly nod.

¶ Few

¶ Fewe prowfes herein may seeme sufficient,
For (out alas) how many way the trueth,
Myne eyes, myne eyes, want no experiment,
That maye me driue to dole and double ruthe,
For of my heauy harmefull hap ensuthe,
Nought els with most, but discord and disdaine:
And of my losse, haue many made their gaine.

¶ But if they feare the iudgements of the Lord,
Or knewe from whence this palling plague did springe,
Or would not wrongly still my case recorde,
Ne shrowd my shame vnder their fortunes winge,
They would be carefull of this cruell thinge,
And rather learne to leaue for feare of paine,
Then loue so long to liue by trayters traine.

¶ But all in vaine I seeme thus to inuey,
Their frozen heartes I feare not some can thowe,
They haue ben taught and truely told the waye,
How they might gaine, and in Gods fauour growe,
But they are deafe, they loue to heare of snowe,
Therefore I leaue them that will filthy bee,
And so againe vnto my tale do flee.

The prechers after the fyer in fearfull maner, charged to restore all the stoln stuf.

¶ When as I sawe I was so sore beset,
On ery side that now no hope I had,
And that my meanes did fall into the net,
And all was fishe that came, bothe good and bad,
Right hastily and all, in care yclad,
I muckehild vp, my moueables and stuffe,
And shortely saued myckle mangled shruffe.

¶ Alas thewhile, what sight was this to see,
I got a bed, the fier gainde a house,
I chopt a chip, it toke away the tree:
It caught the head and I reacht backe a louse
For euery plume, I parted with a goose,
And yet alas, it rag'de and ran so fast,
That lo, this lucke it suffered not to last

¶ For

¶For after it had once begonne to ſume,
No mercy in fyer. Againſt the winde, and with the winde it went,
It leaſt no ſide, bue eſtſones did aſſume,
All that it toutcht, and no way would be pent,
Till my long ſtrétes, on both ſides it had brent,
And made them lowe and leauell with the grounde,
And of my coyne, had molten many a pownde.

¶The Houſes Manſion, which it brought downe,
Were fiftie two, euen there aboutes I geſſe,
The ſumme of houſes. And all the reſt, that burnt were in the Towne,
Three hundred and fiftie, not many moe ne leſſe.
So that the totall nomber I confeſſe,
Is foure hundred and twaine, which I clearely loſt.
And now do lacke, to my great griefe and coſt.

¶The Fiſh and fleſh, that I forehande prepарde,
Hauocke. The Drinke, the drugges, the bread, butter and cheéſe,
The Hay, the ſtrawe, the wood for whiche I carde,
All at a clappe, I muſt forgoe and leaſe:
The Catchpole caught them as his lawfull fées,
Which laide me ſupperleſſe vpon my Bed,
When I ſcarce fownde a Cowch to calme my head.

¶The Fruict that late I loued to pare and prune,
Hunger is good huſe I nowe could reache well roaſted from the trées,
Hunger with care, had harpt ſo ſwéete a tune,
That Biſket Bores, Carawayes and theſe,
I leaſt at large, for daintie waſpes and Bées,
And now could leape alofte to catche a cruſt,
And ſnap it vp with Appetite and luſt.

¶And doubtleſſe, who had heard the Infantes moane,
The moane of infants & women with children. For lacke of lodging and accuſtomed fare,
Or of the bruſde and burnt, the grieuous groane,
Or ſeene the ſhift, that poore eſtate and bare,
Of women, that full bigge with children weare,
Would neare forget the Pageants nor the plight,
So long as he could knowe a wofull wight.

¶I heare